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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF COLIN JOHN TAYLOR

FOR: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO WATER FEATURES



CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Assistant Commissioner for
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a certified copy of the Great Britain Patent Application No.0028447.1 filed on November 22, 2000. The enclosed Application is directed to the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-identified application.

Applicant hereby claims the benefit of the filing date of November 22, 2000 of the Great Britain Patent Application No. 0028447.1, under provisions of 35 U.S.C. 119 and the International Convention for the protection of Industrial Property.

Respectfully submitted,
COLIN JOHN TAYLOR

CANTOR COLBURN LLP
Applicant's Attorneys

By:

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Registration No. 47,535
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Date of Deposit November 20, 2001
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Jennifer Matsu
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DMD
(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

Date: November 20, 2001
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone: 860-286-2929



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
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NP10 8QQ

JC973 U.S. PTO
09/989609
11/20/01

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

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Signed

Dated 17 October 2001

THE PATENT OFFICE
L
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Cardiff Road
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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

M070451PGB

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0028447.1

22 NOV 2000

3. Full name, address, and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Colin John Taylor

Fern Cottage, 430 Lickey Road,
Rednall, Birmingham,
B45 8UUPatents ADP number (*if you know it*)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

England

3026635601

4. Title of the invention

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO WATER FEATURES

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Marks & Clerk

"Address for Service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)Alpha Tower
Suffolk Street Queensway
Birmingham B1 1TTPatents ADP number (*if you know it*)

18002

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(*if you know it*)Date of filing
(*day / month / year*)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application give the number and filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(*day / month / year*)8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (*Answer 'Yes' if:*

No

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document.

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 5

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 2 + 2 ill.

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

21 NOV 2000

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

S G Mosey

0121 643 5881

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO WATER FEATURES

This invention relates to an assembly for use as, or forming an accessory for, a water feature, and in particular relates to a combined water feature and planter.

It is known to incorporate planters in water features such as ornamental ponds, waterfalls, and drinking troughs, and generally the water feature includes a water reservoir from which water is pumped to a required part of the water feature. The planters normally have drain holes which communicate with the reservoir, so that the solution applied to water the plants, which solution may contain chemicals, such as nitrates, for feeding the plants, drains into the reservoir. Accordingly the water pumped around the water feature will become contaminated by such chemicals and represent a danger to anyone, particularly children, who may be tempted to drink from the water feature.

An object of the invention is to overcome this problem.

According to the invention an assembly for use as, or forming an accessory for, a water feature comprises a water reservoir for water recycled, in use, around at least part of the assembly, and at least one planter having a drainage passage which extends through the water reservoir and isolates therefrom liquid draining from the planter, in use.

Preferably the assembly comprises a moulded plastics material hollow shell, which integrally defines said water reservoir and said at least one planter.

Conveniently the drainage passage(s) extending through the water reservoir serves or serve to strengthen the shell.

The invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an assembly in the form of a combined water feature and planter in accordance with the invention, and

Figure 2 is a part cross-sectional central longitudinal view of the assembly of Figure 1.

As shown in Figure 1, the assembly which defines the combined water feature and planter of one embodiment of the invention is in the form of a rectangular trough formed by a one-piece plastics material hollow shell 10, supported on separate legs 10a. The shell defines an internal water reservoir 11 between a base 12, side and end walls 13 and an upper wall 14. The upper wall 14 defines a flat part 15, which forms a base of the planter, and a raised, upwardly tapering hollow circular part 16, which forms a water receptacle of the water feature. The part 16 receives water, in use, discharged from an imitation ornamental hand pump 17 bolted to a platform 18 of an integral projection 19 formed of the upper wall 14 and disposed at one shorter end wall of the rectangular trough. The part 16 is spaced a short distance from the projection 19, so as to lie below the outlet of the pump 17. In use, water from the pump 17 thus falls through the hollow part back into the reservoir 11 below it.

In its base, at a position adjacent the end wall at which the projection 19 is disposed, the shell has an opening 20 through which a sealed electrical supply cable 21 extends, the cable 21 leading to an electrical pump 22 disposed in the reservoir 11. The pump supplies water from the reservoir to the ornamental hand pump 17 by means of a pipe 23 which passes up through an opening in the platform 18 and into the bottom of the ornamental pump 17. Thus when the electrical pump is operating, in use, water from the reservoir 11 is continually being pumped up through the ornamental pump 17, whereupon it discharges under gravity from the outlet of the pump 17 into the part 16. As described, the water then falls through the part 16 and thus back into the reservoir 11.

The flat base part 15 of the planter is formed with a multiplicity of drainage openings 24 therein, each of which is at the top of a vertical hollow drainage passage 25 formed as part of the moulded shell and thus serving to strengthen it. Each passage extends through the full depth of the reservoir 11, from part 15 to base 12, and is thus isolated from the water therein, the passage terminating at the outer, underside of the base 12 so as to provide a drain exteriorly of the shell. Each drainage passage 25 can be straight, of constant circular cross-section. Alternatively where the shell is moulded in two halves which are secured horizontally together, each half shell can define a half of the drainage passage, which is of tapering circular section as shown in Figure 2, with the wider ends at the part 15 and base 12 respectively. The passages 25 could of course be of any other suitable configuration.

In use, gravel or other drainage assisting material is placed on the part 15, and this is then covered by the growing medium, e.g. a mixture of soil and

compost. The plants are then 'bedded' into the growing medium and 'watered' when necessary. It will be appreciated that excess 'water' will drain away through the drainage openings 24 and into the drainage passages 25. The part 15, although generally flat, could be sloped around each drainage opening 24 to assist the flow of 'water' into each drainage passage 25. Accordingly if plant feed is added to the water for the plants, nitrates or other chemicals in the feed will pass in solution through the drainage passages for discharge away at the underside of the shell. Harmful chemicals applied as feed etc., to the plants when the plants are watered cannot thus reach the water reservoir 11. Thus the recycled water in the reservoir 11 is not contaminated by the water draining from the planter, and although it is not intended that such recycled water should be drunk, it would, if drunk, thus not normally be harmful.

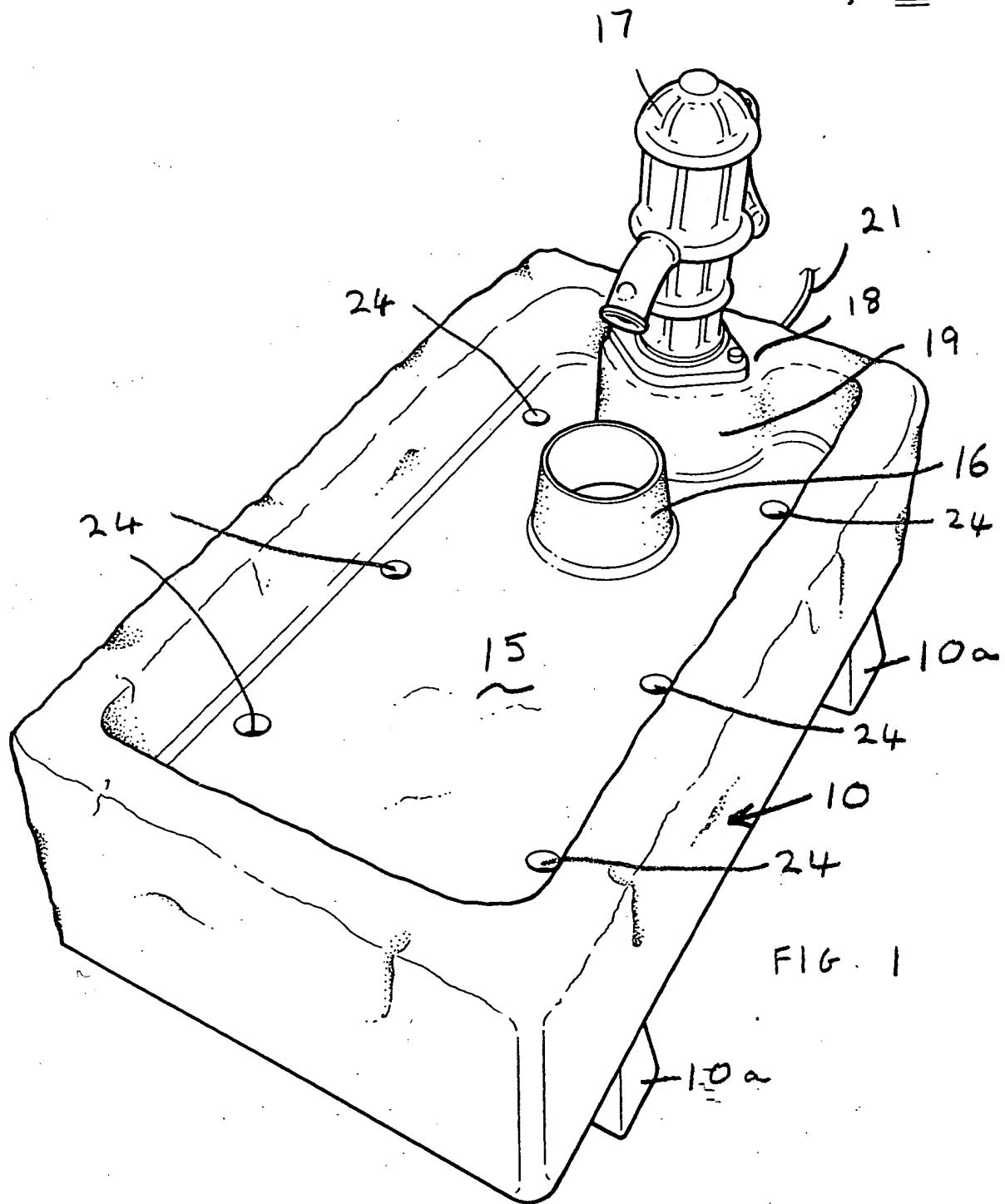
The gravel and soil etc., carried by the planter upper surface may be relatively heavy, but as mentioned, the part 15 is reinforced by the integrally formed drainage passages, and would thus normally be able to carry such weight without difficulty.

It will be appreciated that the invention applies to an assembly which itself constitutes a water feature, as in the embodiment illustrated, and also to an assembly which is an accessory to a water feature such as an indoor ornamental pond, an outdoor garden pond, or the like. For example the assembly could be arranged to have water flowing into the reservoir from the pond with the electrical pump delivering water from the reservoir back into the pond. Again, however, the planter would drain in isolation from the reservoir and pond.

In another embodiment, a multiplicity of separate planters could be arranged in the form of individual 'pockets' around or at the front of the water feature.

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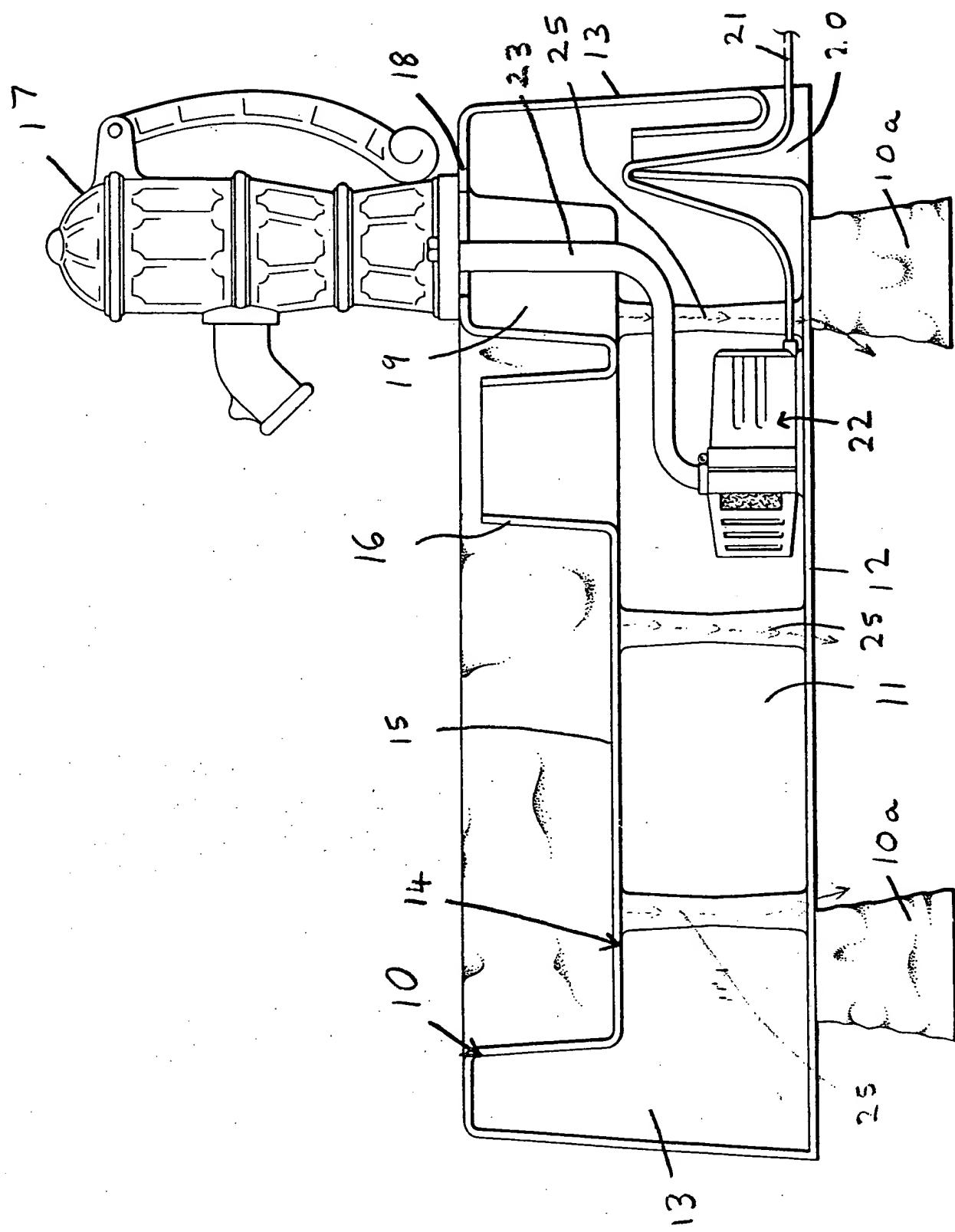


Fig. 2